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Sent: 7/24/2017 8:57:18 AM
To: Englert, Jessica M [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a33c0786f7264aa7b1b51432ef5a2415-jmenglert]; Clayton, Justin A [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f2afa2e475324177869595e4b7b2df44-jaclayton]
Subject: FW: Insider for July 24, 2017

From: Hargis, Scarlett W
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 12:06 AM
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Subject: FW: Insider for July 24, 2017

From: insider@ncinsider.com
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 12:05:34 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: NC Insider
Subject: Insider for July 24, 2017

- Today's Insider (PDF)



YOU DON'T SAY...

"HB 142 is a wolf in sheep's clothing, crafted to keep discrimination intact but sporting a new look."

Chris Brook, legal director with the ACLU of North Carolina, on a suit filed Friday that targets the bill that replaced HB 2.

THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/21/17

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News Summary

Bill Signings

Gov. Roy Cooper signed 21 bills into law on Friday, bringing the total bills remaining on his desk down to 24. One of them was a Republican-sponsored bill that makes any communications and documents between schools in the UNC system and their athletic-conference affiliations public records.

Senate Bill 323 is co-sponsored by former Sen. Andrew Brock, R-Davie, and Sen. Shirley Randleman, R-Wilkes. It is the one bill out of four sponsored by Republicans that focuses on UNC system members' affiliations with athletic conferences and organizations to move out of committee.

Each bill is linked to House Bill 2, the divisive transgender restroom bill that was repealed March 30 with bipartisan support. SB323's sponsor, state Sen. Michael Lee, R-New Hanover, said during Senate floor debate that the bill was designed to eliminate any confusion that materials held by public colleges about these affiliations were accessible. Lee said he had assumed that the communications and documents already were public records. "This just clears it up," Lee said. However, a co-sponsor of the bill, state Sen. Warren Daniel, R-Burke, said in March that the records issue surfaced when the ACC and NCAA pulled their 2016-17 championship games from North Carolina in September because of HB2.

Though SB323 specifically mentions the NCAA and ACC for communications and documents, it would include any UNC system member, such as Appalachian State University, N.C. A&T University, UNC Greensboro and Winston-Salem State University. Listed in the bill are "documents, papers, letters, photographs, films, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data-processing records, artifacts and other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics."

Cooper also signed a bill that creates regulations for driverless cars. Under House Bill 469, operators of a driverless car won't be required to have a driver's license, but a vehicle registration will still be needed. The state's seat belt requirement will not apply to the vehicle's driving system, because it is not human. The bill also addresses operator's and owners' responsibilities if a self-driving vehicle is involved in a crash. The operator will be responsible for stopping the vehicle and contacting law enforcement, and the vehicle owner will be responsible if that requirement isn't met -- but the owner won't run the risk of losing their driver's license.

A third notable bill in Friday's list of signings addresses regulations for 5G -- or Fifth Generation -- wireless technology in the coming years. Instead of building traditional cell phone towers, that technology can be mounted on utility poles, street lights and other locations on public property. House Bill 310 has backing from the wireless industry and other business groups and would set a standard regulatory process for installing the infrastructure, pieces of which are known as "small cells" and "distributed antenna systems." A number of other states are considering similar legislation this year, but the technology isn't expected to go into use until 2020. The bill will allow local governments to charge fees for wireless companies that want to install the technology along public streets and on existing infrastructure that cities and towns control. But the bill would limit governments' ability to deny the permits, requiring them to cite one of several acceptable reasons for denial, such as appearance standards and spacing rules.

Here's a complete list of the other bills signed Friday:

- **House Bill 155:** An Act to Make Various Changes to Education Laws
- **House Bill 236 :** An Act to Provide for the Clerk to Appoint an Interim Guardian Ad Litem on the Clerk's Own Motion; To Provide for the Clerk to Extend the Time for Filing Inventory in

the Property of the Deceased; To Provide for Issuance of an Order for an Arrest when a Person Fails to Appear after Being Served with a Show Cause in a Civil Proceeding; To Amend How Costs in Administration of Estates Are Assessed; To Allow for Temporary Assistance for District Attorneys When There is a Conflict of Interest; To Amend Other Statutes Governing the General Court of Justice, as Recommended By the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts; To Provide for the Establishment of an Arbitration and Mediation Program for the North Carolina Business Court; To Amend Statutes Governing Mediation in the General Court of Justice; And to Amend the Law Governing the Regulation of Mediators

- **House Bill 294:** An Act To Make Changes To The Notice Requirements And Penalty For The Disposition Of Abandoned Property, To Make Technical And Clarifying Changes To the Unclaimed Property Statutes, And To Modify Terms Of Appointment For Various Boards.
- **House Bill 337:** An Act to Make Various Revisions to the Laws Governing the Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems
- **House Bill 362:** An Act to Make Various Changes to the Juvenile Laws
- **House Bill 384:** An Act to Strengthen Organized Retail Theft Laws
- **House Bill 402:** An Act to Generally Exempt Persons Who Arrange for Recycling of Recyclable Materials from Liability for Hazardous Substances Released or Threatened to Be Released at a Facility Owned or Operated by Another Person
- **House Bill 440:** An Act to Clarify Obligations and the Relationship Between a Federal Home Loan Bank and a North Carolina Insurance Company During the Conservatorship and Rehabilitation Process
- **House Bill 462:** An Act to Make Technical, Clarifying, and Other Amendments to Provisions Applicable to Commercial Banks, Provisions Applicable to Bank Holding Companies, and Provisions Applicable to Credit Unions
- **House Bill 666:** An Act to Provide for a Waiver of Minimum Personnel Requirements
- **House Bill 707:** An Act to Make Various Changes to the Statutes Governing Lien Agents for the Purpose of Providing for the Cancellation and Renewal of a Notice to Lien Agent
- **House Bill 716:** An Act to Provide that the Laws Regulating the Distance Between Motor Vehicles Traveling on the Road Do Not Apply to Any Non-Leading Commercial Motor Vehicle Traveling within a Platoon Where Authorized by the Department of Transportation
- **House Bill 740:** An Act to Modify the Name of Search and Rescue Services, to Allow the North Carolina Geodetic Survey to Ratify Results of County Boundary Resurveys, and to Clarify that Protective Ridgeline Maps are Housed with the North Carolina Geodetic Survey Rather than the Department of Environmental Quality
- **House Bill 772:** An Act to Amend the North Carolina International Commercial Arbitration and Conciliation Act
- **House Bill 799:** An Act to Allow for Landlords to Charge Individual Tenants for Shared Cost of Natural Gas Service Provided to Leased Tenants
- **House Bill 800:** An Act to Make Various Changes to the Laws Affecting Charter Schools
- **Senate Bill 42:** An Act Directing the Medical Care Commission to Adopt the Recommendations of the American Society of Healthcare Engineering's Facility Guidelines Institute
- **Senate Bill 384 :** An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Use of Motions for Appropriate Relief; To Clarify the Definition of "Felony Offense" for Purposes of the Habitual Felon Law and to Remove the Sunset on Drivers License Eligibility for Persons Convicted of Habitual Impaired Driving; To Include Breaking and Entering with the Intent to Terrorize as a Habitual Breaking and Entering Status Offense; To Clarify That When a Person is Charged with an Offense Which Requires Mandatory Fingerprinting, Fingerprinting Will be Ordered by the Court if the Offender Was Not Arrested and Fingerprinted at the Time of the Offense; To Provide that a Private Citizen's Showing of Probable Cause to the Magistrate Shall Include Sufficient Information Supported by Oath or Affirmation that a Crime Has Occurred and Shall Issue as a Summons Unless a Substantial Likelihood Exists That the Defendant Will Not Respond to a Summons; And to Amend the Sheriff's Supplemental Pension Fund.

Pipeline Assessment

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline intended to carry natural gas across West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina would have some adverse environmental effects, including impacts on water resources, forest and other habitats, but most could be reduced to insignificant levels, an assessment by federal regulators found.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which oversees interstate natural gas pipelines, released its final environmental impact statement Friday for the proposed 600-mile (965-kilometer) pipeline, which has broad support from political and business leaders but is staunchly opposed by environmentalists and many affected landowners.

The assessment is a major milestone in the approval process for the project that will cross hundreds of bodies of water, mountainous terrain, national forest, and the Appalachian Trail. Its findings were largely favorable for developers.

The impact statement did find that construction in steep terrain could increase the potential for landslides and that the project was likely to adversely affect seven species protected under the Endangered Species Act. It found that the greatest impact on vegetation would be on forested areas, with more than 3,400 acres having long-term or permanent effects. But overall, the assessment said that if developers use proper construction and mitigation techniques, most of environmental impacts could be reduced to "less-than-significant" levels.

The leading company behind the project said FERC's assessment "provides a clear path" for final approval later this year. "While some impacts on the environment and landowners are unavoidable with any infrastructure project, the report demonstrates that we've taken all necessary steps to minimize those impacts and balance them with the urgent public need for the project," Leslie Hartz, Dominion Energy's vice president for engineering and construction, said in a statement.

Environmental groups, which argue that FERC's approval process is inadequate and biased in favor of pipeline developers, criticized the assessment, saying it glossed over important environmental impacts. "Regardless of FERC's decision, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline is not a done deal. Far from it," said Lew Freeman, director of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance, a coalition of community groups and legal and technical experts who oppose the pipeline. He pointed out that state level water-quality permits are still pending. Legal challenges have also been filed, and more could come. (Sarah Rankin, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/21/17).

Jobless Rate

The state's unemployment rate reached an 11-year low of 4.2 percent in June, with individuals continuing to drop out of the labor force contributing to the decrease as much as employer hiring. The N.C. Commerce Department reported Friday the rate dropped 0.3 percentage points from May. It was the first time since February 2015 that the state rate was below the U.S. rate, which was 4.4 percent, up 0.1 percentage point from May.

The previous state low was 4.3 percent in May 2006, a period when the state had recovered mostly from the 2001-03 recession and was about 1 1/2 years away from the start of the Great Recession of late 2007 to early 2011. Going below 4.2 percent requires going back to November 2000 and a 4.1 percent rate.

Typically, the state's jobless rate increases between May and August on seasonal factors, primarily teachers being considered unemployed when their annual contract ends, as well as college and high school students temporarily entering the labor force.

As has been typical for several years, the two methodologies used to measure North Carolina's job market -- household survey and employer survey -- yielded diverse outlooks. The household survey determined the state labor force decreased by 18,616 from May to June, with a 3,724 drop in those listed as employed and a 14,892 decline in those listed as unemployed. The employer survey determined a net gain of just 3,500 private-sector jobs, as well as 9,100 government jobs. Some of the government hiring may reflect teachers at year-round schools going back to work.

The methodologies also drew mixed reactions from economists and analysts. "The big drop in the state jobless rate is a mirage," said Michael Walden, an economics professor at N.C. State University. "It is totally due to a large decrease in the labor force. Mark Vitner, senior economist with Wells Fargo Securities, said a year-long look provides a better perspective on the state's job market.

Since May 2016, the state has had a net gain of 63,300 private-sector and 8,900 government jobs, led by 30,200 in professional and business services and 14,000 in education and health services. "North Carolina's labor force has grown faster than the nation's over the past year, rising 0.8 percent, while resident employment has grown more than twice as fast," Vitner said. "So even if June's 0.3 percentage point decline exaggerates the extent of the improvement in the labor market that month, the improvement over the past year appears to be quite genuine ... and fairly broad based, with more parts of North Carolina seeing their labor markets tighten up." (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 7/21/17).

Bathroom Challenge

North Carolina's controversial House Bill 2 has been off the books for three months, but organizations that filed suit against the so-called "bathroom bill" say the law that replaced it leaves transgender people in this state unprotected from discrimination after they were put in the middle of a highly publicized political debate. The American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal, a LGBT rights law firm, filed documents in federal court on Friday seeking to amend a lawsuit filed last year against HB2 to center its claims on the law adopted in March to replace it. The documents contend the law replacing HB2 "discriminates against transgender individuals with respect to one of life's most basic and essential bodily functions -- using the restroom -- and, until December 2020, blocks local governments from protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people against discrimination in employment and public accommodations."

Representatives from the ACLU and Lambda Legal planned to outline the amended complaint at a news conference in Raleigh on Friday morning.

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and Republican legislative leaders struck a deal to replace HB2 with House Bill 142 as a deadline approached to miss out on years of sports championships. The new law repealed HB2 but created a moratorium on local nondiscrimination ordinances through 2020 and left regulation of bathrooms, showers and changing facilities to state lawmakers, not the local school systems, universities, community colleges and other state agencies that had been setting their own policies.

House Speaker Tim Moore called the compromise "a very measured approach," and Cooper said while he wanted full repeal, the new law represented "important progress." But LGBT rights advocates described the legislative action in March as "fake repeal."

The ACLU, ACLU of North Carolina and Lambda Legal attorneys announced Thursday the legal team's intentions to try to amend the lawsuit filed a year ago by a transgender man who works at UNC-Chapel Hill, a lesbian law professor at N.C. Central University, a transgender man who is a student at UNC-Greensboro, a transgender teenage girl who is a student at the UNC School of the Arts and a lesbian couple in Charlotte.

The documents seeking to amend the case include two new challengers, a 41-year-old transgender woman from Raleigh, and a 32-year-old bisexual man who lives in Carrboro. The complaint outlines the attempts to repeal HB2 after Cooper, a critic of the law, was elected. The documents also highlight the words of some lawmakers who would not support a repeal but voted for the replacement law.

Kevin Corbin, a Macon County Republican in the state House of Representatives, was one of the lawmakers highlighted in the complaint. "On the day that he voted for HB 142, North Carolina state Rep. Kevin Corbin stated that H.B. 142 'is not a repeal of HB2. ... The bill clearly states that city councils like Charlotte and other government entities CANNOT regulate access of multiple occupancy restrooms, showers, or changing facilities. Only the N.C. General Assembly may enact bathroom ordinances. ... What this essentially means is that the restroom provision of HB2 remains...,'" the amended complaint quotes Corbin as saying.

Many of the claims made in the initial lawsuit over HB2 remain. The challengers argue the new law violates equal protection and due process rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and prohibitions on discrimination based on sex under federal laws such as Title IX and Title VII.

"While Gov. Cooper has stated that, as a result of the passage of HB 142, there currently is no North Carolina state law 'barring the use of multiple occupancy bathroom facilities in accordance with gender identity,' other North Carolina officials, including North Carolina State Sen. Danny Britt, (House Speaker Tim Moore), and North Carolina Rep. Chuck McGrady, have stated that passage of HB 142 ensured that transgender individuals can be criminally prosecuted for using

restrooms in public buildings that match their gender identity," the amended lawsuit contends. "The resulting uncertainty about whether they could be arrested or suffer other adverse consequences means that transgender individuals cannot safely use single-sex, multiple-user restrooms in government controlled buildings in North Carolina." (Anne Blythe, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/21/17).

Budget Cuts

Legislators took a bite this past session out of taxpayer funding for poor people caught up in the court system, and it's unclear why.

The heads of the three agencies that used this money -- and a much larger pot of threatened federal funding -- to handle thousands of child custody cases, landlord/tenant disputes and other civil matters said they received no notice for the cut and that they've gotten no explanation in the ensuing month. "We were totally blindsided," said Kenneth Schorr, executive director of Legal Services of Southern Piedmont. "There was no communication this was on the table."

The cut materialized in the House. Legislative staff there referred WRAL News to Speaker Tim Moore's office for an explanation, but his spokesman said Moore would not comment on the matter. The four co-chairmen of the House's Justice and Public Safety Appropriations Committee did not respond to WRAL News requests for comment. The only possible explanations Schorr and similar agency heads have heard came third-hand or worse and may be little more than speculation.

"All we've gotten is rumor," said George R. Hausen Jr., president and executive director of Legal Aid of North Carolina, the largest of three attorney groups that get state money for this work. The lack of communication fits a pattern, as other questions on unrelated budget cuts during and after the legislative session also were met with silence.

These groups marshal several hundred attorneys around the state to help thousands of people who can't afford a lawyer navigate the ins and outs of civil lawsuits. Much of the litigation ties back to domestic violence cases, but legal aid clinics also fight evictions and predatory lending practices. It's a hodge-podge of work done by full-time staff attorneys, backed up by outside lawyers who often volunteer their time. The groups also help people get disability payments and Medicaid.

Barrett said the \$1.7 million the state cut more than paid for itself, in part by keeping children out of the foster system, keeping evicted tenants from becoming homeless and keeping people out of the hospital.

More than 40 percent of the funding for these programs, which topped \$25.5 million in fiscal 2015, comes from the federal government. President Donald Trump's budget proposal would zero-out the federal money nationwide, but the programs have support in Congress and are expected to survive the budgeting process. Republican U.S. Sens. Richard Burr and Thom Tillis of North Carolina have helped protect this funding in the past, and Tillis reaffirmed that support during the North Carolina Bar Association's recent annual meeting, Hausen said.

The state money makes up less than 10 percent of legal aid budgets, but if it's not replaced, the cut will eventually mean attorney layoffs, with each one reducing the number of clients who can be helped in a year by hundreds, clinic directors said. (Travis Fain, WRAL NEWS, 7/23/17).

Investigative Demand

The State of North Carolina is launching an investigation into whether Chemours used deceptive trade practices in its marketing of GenX. North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein issued an "investigative demand" Friday requiring Chemours to produce documents related to the chemical's safety, how GenX compares to older chemicals and its health risks. The Attorney General's Office also wants any documents provided to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state regulators regarding GenX in Fayetteville's wastewater.

"When something is marketed as sustainable, people think it's safe," Stein said in a statement Friday. "That's never more important than when it is in their drinking water or the lining of the pots and pans they use to cook for their families. We need to know more about how Chemours markets GenX, its risks and its environmental sustainability -- that's what this action demands." Chemours has 30 days to produce the documents, according to the order. If Chemours does not

respond to the demand, the Attorney General's Office can ask the court to force a response or be held in contempt, according to the agency.

Specifically, the Attorney General's Office wants to know how GenX is an improvement over C8, a chemical linked to cancer. Stein's office also wants documents provided to the EPA under the Toxic Substances Control Act, studies used to determine risks and benefits of GenX and the abatement technology Chemours used starting in 2013 to remove GenX from the wastewater flow.(Kevin Maurer and Adam Wagner, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 7/23/17).

Telemedicine Regulations

Resources: [HB 283: Telemedicine Policy Recommendations](#)

About 40 percent of North Carolinians live in one of the state's 80 rural counties, many of which lack ready access to health care. But in recent years, more and more North Carolinians are receiving care with telemedicine. However, there remain a lot of gaps in state policy when it comes to virtual medical visits.

State legislators passed a bill last month that directs the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services to study and recommend a policy for the state. Every state has different definitions, standards, limitations, safeguards and payment methods for telemedicine, which DHHS should consider in making its recommendations. According to the bill, the study and report will be presented to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by October 1. The governor signed the bill into law Thursday.

Peter Kragel, director of East Carolina University Telemedicine Center, said that uniform policy is always a good idea. He said there are still issues to be worked out, such as provider reimbursement for telemedicine visits. "A lot of North Carolina is pretty rural, and transportation and access to care can be an issue," Kragel said. "Telemedicine has a lot of potential good in terms of access. We still struggle with that in terms of connectivity and broadband. There are certain areas of North Carolina you still can't get a cell signal."

ECU houses the North Carolina Statewide Telepsychiatry Program, called NC-STeP. The program provides hospital emergency departments with virtual access to a psychiatrist in real time. These are patients who otherwise might wait days to see a specialist, particularly in rural areas. The program was formed in 2013 by ECU, the Office of Rural Health and Community Care and the General Assembly to deal with overcrowding in emergency departments by mental health patients experiencing a crisis, such as paranoia or psychotic symptoms. At that time, lawmakers directed DHHS to study the issue and come up with a plan, not unlike the bill passed last month.

While NC-STeP helps patients see a psychiatrist sooner, it doesn't necessarily mean they will get to a state bed any faster. But for those patients with less complicated cases, seeing a psychiatrist faster means they can go home sooner if they don't need to be transferred to another facility. It's important to note that the large urban counties that hold the majority of the state's population and the most crowded emergency departments are not included in NC-STeP data. The program primarily serves people in smaller or rural counties with less access to mental health care.(Taylor Knopf, NC HEALTH NEWS, 7/21/17).

Hospital Investigation

An investigation into a man's suicide at Central Regional Hospital found that staff members were not checking patients as they should and a record of patient monitoring had been falsified. The state Department of Health and Human Services said that a hospital nurse resigned before an internal investigation was over, and "personnel action" was taken against two other employees after a patient was found hanging in his bathroom last March. The two employees were not demoted, suspended or dismissed, DHHS said.

DHHS operates Central Regional in Butner and two other psychiatric hospitals -- Cherry in Goldsboro and Broughton in Morganton. A record of patient checks "included entries by staff that checks were conducted when the video surveillance confirmed otherwise," DHHS spokesman Cobey Culton said in an email. The death put Central Regional at risk of losing federal money. Inspectors determined patient safety was at risk. But the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services declared the hospital back in compliance in late May. DHHS did not release the patient's name, but an autopsy report confirmed he was Harold Jason Campbell, 42, of Macon County.

Before dawn on March 28, Campbell was found hanging by his belt, which was wedged between his bathroom door and door frame. He lived in the part of the hospital called the forensic unit, which is for people who are found not guilty of crimes by reason of insanity, have been found incompetent to stand trial, or are criminal defendants receiving court-ordered mental health evaluations. Another Central Regional patient attempted suicide in a similar fashion in 2009, using a sheet.

Immediately after Campbell died, the hospital removed all full-length bathroom doors in patients' private rooms. DHHS officials decided patient privacy could be maintained without the doors, said Mark Benton, deputy secretary for health services. The agency is considering various options for replacing them, he said.

The state recently finished construction of a new Cherry Hospital, which Benton said has breakaway bathroom doors. DHHS is considering putting sensors on doors to semi-private bathrooms in the new Broughton Hospital under construction. Bathrooms in private patient rooms at Broughton will have no doors. Campbell was charged in 2006 in Macon County with killing his mother. (Lynn Bonner, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/21/17).

Bill Targeting

A Durham woman fed up with the General Assembly and the lack of attention it tends to get from young people has created a website to track and push back against key legislation. Killthebill.com gets its targets and analysis from the American Civil Liberties Union, Democracy North Carolina, the Southern Environmental Law Center and other left-leaning partners. It highlights a few dozen bills put up by the legislature's Republican majority and seeks to organize opposition. There's a "testify" button meant to collect the names of people willing to attend committee hearings and speak out on bills, particularly on immigration measures. Founder Kelly Garvy said she's working on updates that will make it easier to track bills by email and for users to reach out to legislators by email, telephone and social media.

She's working to have upgrades in place ahead of the legislature's return to session Aug. 3, or soon after.

Garvy said she may eventually try to get sponsors for the site but said that, so far, she's paid to develop it herself, linking to analysis from various nonprofits and leaning on them for bill suggestions. (Travis Fain, WRAL NEWS, 7/21/17).

Coal Ash Storage

Morehead City Mayor Jerry Jones said Wednesday he did not get advance notice that the N.C. Council of State -- comprised of the publicly elected officials of state departments -- would vote on July 11 in Raleigh to approve a proposal leasing space at the N.C. Port of Morehead City to an Ohio company to store and re-ship 150,000 tons of coal fly ash from India. Mayor Jones, however, said the approval of the lease did not especially disturb him. "It's an industrial port," he said. "I didn't know anything about it until it happened. But that doesn't disturb me, really."

As of Wednesday, Mayor Jones said he didn't know of any plans by the council to discuss the matter, either as a whole or in committee. Mark Mansfield of Morehead City, chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, said Thursday he received no advance notice of the lease. Nor, he said, did County Manager Tommy Burns, or Morehead City Manager David Whitlow, both of whom he talked to this week about the issue.

The county board, Mr. Mansfield said, will talk about the issue in the near future, and he is concerned. "I really don't know much about it yet," he said. "But I'm definitely trying to find out as much about it as I can." Mr. Mansfield said he understands the need for privacy in economic development matters, especially when the state is dealing with matters that involve companies with multiple location options. Still, he said, it would have been good to be in the loop.

The lease, which N.C. Ports Authority spokesperson Laura Blair said Monday is with Spartan Materials LLC, is for two years, with no guaranteed state option to renew. Ms. Blair, NCPA Vice President of Administration and External Affairs, said Monday that the port will receive the fly ash -- which she said is different than what is commonly referred to generically as coal ash -- in double-lined bags from India. The material, she said, will be transferred into sealed silos, which other reports have identified as Warehouse 6, at the port. From there, she said, the product will

be shipped by truck or rail cars to various concrete ready-mix plants, which will use it in the production of cement for concrete construction projects, such as sidewalks and bridges. "There are a lot of questions about why North Carolina should be importing coal ash from overseas when we're awash in it here, and it's a big management and pollution problem," Todd Miller, founder and executive director of the Carteret County-based N.C. Coastal Federation said Monday. "That's a question for our elected and appointed officials who are working to solve the problems we have with storage of coal ash around the state." Alexandra Mendoza, director of public relations for the state Department of Administration, said Wednesday that the request for the lease agreement came from the port authority, and was approved unanimously during the council of state's July 11 meeting. She added, however, that state Attorney General Josh Stein was not at the meeting.

Other members of the council of state are Gov. Roy Cooper, Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey, Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry, Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson, State Treasurer Dale Folwell and State Auditor Beth Wood. Gov. Cooper, Mr. Stein, Ms. Marshall and Ms. Wood are Democrats, the others are Republicans.

Gov. Cooper, in response to a question from the News-Times, said that although the coal ash issue is a serious one, it's being addressed by state agencies and he's satisfied that it is being handled. "I want to make sure we use science and rely on science and our health officials" to protect state residents from any possible hazards from coal ash, he said. (Brad Rich, THE CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES, 7/21/17).

Prison Changes

Weeks after the Charlotte Observer published an investigation into widespread corruption in North Carolina's prisons, state officials have begun testing new ways to prevent employees from smuggling drugs, cell phones and other contraband to inmates.

At Lanesboro Correctional Institution, 45 miles southeast of Charlotte, workers reporting for duty now must take off their shoes and pass them through an X-ray machine, staff members told the Observer. Employees are also now required to walk past devices that are designed to find contraband cell phones. "As we move toward improvements in the security screening process at prison entrances, Lanesboro and a few other facilities are being identified to pilot some options and determine what works best," prison spokesman Keith Acree wrote in an email to the Observer. State officials declined to specify their new security measures or to say which other prisons are testing them. But starting in August or September, state prison leaders hope to begin "pat/frisk searches" on all staff and visitors who enter the prisons, Acree said.

The Observer's investigation found that officers who are paid to prevent prison corruption are often behind it. Officers frequently team up with prisoners on crimes that endanger staff members, inmates and the public. Staff members smuggle in most of the illicit drugs and cell phones to the state's maximum-security prisons, the newspaper found. In the past five years, more than 50 North Carolina prison employees have been charged with bringing contraband into prisons. Some inmates and experts say it's easier to buy drugs in prison than on the street.

One Lanesboro officer, who declined to be named because he fears retribution, said he's skeptical that prison leaders will be able to block the flow of contraband without more thoroughly checking the backgrounds of job applicants, improving pay for officers and prosecuting the corrupt ones. "I think (the new screening process) will halt stuff initially," said another Lanesboro employee, who also asked not be identified. "Do I think people will figure out how to get stuff in? Yeah." (Ames Alexander & Gavin Off, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 7/21/17).

Asheville Hire

A North Carolina city has hired a manager whose job it will be to root out institutional racism and give opportunities to underrepresented minorities. The city hired Kimberlee Archie as its equity and inclusion manager. Officials said in a news release on Thursday that Archie is a higher education consultant from Charlotte who was selected after a nationwide search. Archie will begin work July 31 with an annual salary of \$80,000. City officials say among Archie's first tasks will be city hiring and human resources, public engagement, public safety and community and economic development.

The hiring comes more than a year after the council tapped equity and diversity as a key issue. It came from a January 2016 retreat where council members made it a top priority for the areas of health, education, housing and economic mobility. In June the city hired a Denver, Colorado firm to do a \$320,000 racial disparity study.

Since that time, a police officer killed an African-American man in a shooting that was ruled justified. A traffic disparity study this year by an independent group showed city police stop and search a disproportionate number of black drivers. That was followed by a pushback against expansion of the police department by people who say police treat African-Americans more harshly. (ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 7/21/17).

Charlotte GOP

On paper, Charlotte's mayoral election should be an easy layup for Democrats. They outnumber Republicans 2-1. There are even more unaffiliated voters than Republicans. And Charlotte hasn't elected a Republican mayor for a decade. So why are Republicans optimistic? "The stars are aligning for the most competitive mayoral race since 2009," GOP strategist Larry Shaheen said Friday.

Friday's close of candidate filing left both parties facing Sept. 12 primaries. Five Democrats and three Republicans are running for mayor. Twelve candidates are running for four at-large city council seats; 26 are competing in districts. Democratic Mayor Jennifer Roberts faces two high-profile party rivals: Mayor Pro Tem Vi Lyles and state Sen. Joel Ford. Constance Johnson and Lucille Puckett are also running.

Republican Kenny Smith, a member of the city council, faces Kimberly Barnette and Gary Dunn in the GOP primary. Republican Edwin Peacock finished within five points of Roberts in 2015 and within six of Democrat Patrick Cannon in 2013. He said those gaps can be surmounted. "That's the gap that Kenny has to fill up," Peacock said. "I don't think he will have a money issue. He has to build a brand and get name ID quickly."

With a hotter race, Democrats will have to spend more than Smith in the primary. He could also benefit from at least one of the independent groups planning to get involved. Mark Knoop is a Republican strategist who heads a group called Forward Charlotte, a non-profit that doesn't disclose its donors. He said it's planning to spend into six figures to "hold Jennifer Roberts accountable" with a pro-business message.

Though a nasty Democratic primary could leave the winner wounded, some say they're not worried about the party coming together. "Whomever comes out on top we will unify ourselves," said Colette Forrest, chair of the Black Political Caucus.

A wild card will be what it often is -- turnout. Only 14.8 percent of voters turned out in November 2015. "Turnout is key," said Shaheen, the Republican strategist. "If the enthusiasm isn't there or the candidate lacks resources to turn out their base, then demographics means nothing." Peacock said Smith needs to increase turnout among sporadic Republican voters. "Kenny needs to do something that I couldn't do -- get more off-year Republicans to vote," he said. (Jim Morrill and Steve Harrison, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 7/23/17).

Unaffiliated Candidates

A temporary restraining order will allow unaffiliated voters in Cleveland County to file for school board using the same deadlines as municipal races. Superior Court Judge Robert Sumner signed the order Thursday morning that extends the filing period for the November election to Aug. 1 and extends the deadline to collect 4 percent of registered voters' signatures on a petition to Sept. 27. Attorney Paul Ditz, who requested the order on behalf of Cleveland County school board member Kathy Falls, said the order ensures that all unaffiliated voters have the same opportunity to appear on the ballot. Falls, who has served two terms on the school board, is registered as unaffiliated and is seeking re-election in November.

The order comes on the heels of Senate Bill 253, which was ratified June 29. The measure changed school board elections in nine counties, including Cleveland County, from nonpartisan to partisan. This change means a candidate's political affiliation is disclosed on the ballot. The bill will go into effect for eight of those counties in 2018 but has already started in Cleveland County because of the upcoming school board election in November. The change to a partisan race

requires any unaffiliated candidates to obtain 4 percent, or just over 2,500, signatures of registered voters in the county, Ditz said.

But according to the N.C. State Board of Elections' interpretation of the bill, those candidates would have needed to file their petitions by June 30, giving them less than 24 hours to collect the necessary signatures. The other option -- declare a political party -- is off the table at this point, as that step must be done 90 days before candidate filing opens. On July 11, the Cleveland County Board of Elections voted to apply N.C. General Statute 163-296 to this election cycle, which applies the deadlines for municipal elections to the school board race. This decision ensures that unaffiliated voters have the opportunity to have their name included on the ballot.(Elise Franco, THE SHELBY STAR, 7/21/17).

Admission Standards

N.C. A&T University chancellor Harold Martin briefed trustees Friday on a proposal to raise minimum admission standards. The not-yet-finished plan that Martin and other A&T leaders are considering for new freshmen would raise the minimum grade-point average slightly and perhaps for the first time set a minimum score on the math portion of the SAT. Martin said higher standards would help A&T attract more accomplished high school students who would be more likely to stay in school and graduate from college in four years. "What we want to do is make some tweaks" to current admission standards, Martin said. "...We are exploring ways of setting the threshold a little higher."

The UNC system sets minimum admission standards for all state universities in North Carolina. Incoming freshman must complete a required set of high school classes and earn a grade-point average of at least 2.5 -- roughly a B-minus -- on a four-point scale. The minimum SAT score is 880 out of 1,600. A&T's current minimum GPA (2.7) is slightly higher than the state standard. It's SAT minimum is the same.

A&T officials are thinking about raising the minimum GPA to 2.75. They're also considering a significant increase to the minimum SAT score. They're looking at three different SAT cut-offs: a minimum of 930 on the SAT's math and reading portions for all students; a minimum of between 490 and 520 only on the math test for all students; or a minimum of 530 on the math SAT for students who plan to study math, science or engineering.

The reason for increasing the minimum SAT score? A&T is primarily a STEM school, Martin said, and the university's own data show that students generally need good math skills to do well at A&T. Over the next month, A&T officials plan to see how higher standards might have affected previous freshman classes. A minimum GPA of 2.75 would have eliminated roughly 100 of the 2,100 freshmen expected to enroll this fall. A&T officials aren't sure how higher minimum SAT scores might have affected this year's class or earlier classes.

Even with its current standards, the profile of A&T's freshmen classes continue to improve. From 2009 to 2015, according to UNC system data, the high school GPAs of new freshmen rose from 3.06 to 3.41, and average SAT scores increased by 15 points. A&T officials expect this fall's freshman class to have an average GPA of 3.58 and an average score of 1,030 on the SAT.(John Newsom, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 7/21/17).

Budget Probe

While it is unclear if East Laurinburg has approved a budget for the current fiscal year, state officials said they are still waiting to get a look at the town's budget from the previous year. According to the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer, attempts have been made to obtain a copy of East Laurinburg's budget since February. The department has been working with East Laurinburg after it the small municipality was placed on the state's Unit Assistance List. The state does not typically review all municipalities budgets, but cities and towns with financial concerns are added to a list for the treasurer's office to follow up with. "Our preferred approach in working with all units, including those on the Unit Assistance List, is to be a resource for them," said Karah Manning, State Treasurer communications manager. "As a result there is no immediate penalty for not responding. Staff will continue to follow up and try to determine why there is a delay."

Part of the problem may be turnover in town government. The small municipality has had four financial officers over the last two years, Manning said. East Laurinburg needs to send the newly

approved budget to the N.C. Department of State Treasurer before additional steps are taken. Those additional measures would include contacting elected officials of the municipality, to assess penalties to the staff members responsible.(Nolan Gilmour, THE LAURINBURG EXCHANGE, 7/21/17).

Nurse Licensure

Gov. Roy Cooper last week signed the Nurse Licensure Compact legislation. North Carolina is the 26th state to pass eNLC legislation. During the planning stages, 26 was determined to be the critical number of states needed to implement the updated compact agreement. The original Nurse Licensure Compact was ratified in North Carolina in 1999. The compact gives nurses greater mobility when making career moves and eliminated the cost of holding multiple licenses for those nurses who chose to pursue employment in other states that were also members of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Rep. John Szoka, R-Cumberland, championed this legislation in the North Carolina General Assembly. "This legislation is especially important in North Carolina because it allows service members and spouses who have a nursing license to more quickly enter the workforce," Szoka said. "Also the eNLC establishes uniform licensure requirements with a higher threshold for issuing a license with a multi-state privilege." To date, the North Board of Nursing has identified more than 17,600 nurses who have taken advantage of the old compact and with the addition of more states joining the new eNLC, this number is expected to grow substantially.(NEWS RELEASE, 7/21/17).

Deaths

Dr. Charles Lyons Jr., who led Fayetteville State University for nearly two decades, has died, according to the university. Dr. Lyons was named chancellor of FSU in 1969 and served in that post until 1987. The school said he died Friday morning in Florida, where he had been battling an unspecified illness. "Under his tenure, we became Fayetteville State University and a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina," university spokesman Jeff Womble said in a news release. "Among his many accomplishments at FSU were the granting of master's degrees, a program office at Fort Bragg and significant capital expansion with six new buildings." The Lyons Science Building on FSU's campus is named for the former chancellor.(Drew Brooks, THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, 7/22/17).

Park Expansion

Resources: [2012 Department of Justice Press Release](#)

Special agents from the State Bureau of Investigation's Diversion and Environmental Crimes Unit were on hand for the dedication of 200 new acres at Lake Waccamaw State Park in Columbus County on Friday. Agents with the SBI worked jointly with the Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigative Division on a hog waste discharge case that resulted in the conviction of the perpetrator who was fined \$1.5 million. A portion of that fine was given to the N.C. Coastal Land Trust and N.C. State Parks to purchase additional acreage for Lake Waccamaw State Park.

"Agents from SBI's Environmental Crime Unit work complex environmental investigations like this one to protect our natural resources," said SBI Assistant Director Masha Rogers. "This investigation started in 2007 and is ending positively with the 200 acres being added for the preservation of wetlands for the citizens of Columbus County."(THE BLADEN JOURNAL, 7/21/17).

Dublin Base

Bank of America announced Friday that Dublin will be the new base for its European Union operations following Britain's decision last year to split from the EU. Brian Moynihan, CEO of the Charlotte-based bank, made the announcement during a trip to the Irish capital city. It becomes the latest large U.S. bank in recent weeks to disclose plans for continuing to serve clients in EU countries following the so-called Brexit vote in 2016. In a statement, Moynihan called Dublin the "natural location" for consolidating the bank's legal entities, noting Bank of America already has an Irish-domiciled bank. Big banks have been disclosing more details about where they will base hubs in order to continue accessing EU markets after the March 2019 Brexit deadline.(Deon Roberts, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 7/21/17).

Overdose Calls

A North Carolina fire chief says emergency crews responded to seven overdose calls in a 24-hour span, and one of those calls resulted in a death. Greenville Fire and Rescue Chief Eric Griffin said there is an opioid crisis right now in the city. Griffin said that since June 30, his department has responded to 158 overdose calls, compared to 134 during the same time a year ago. He said the crisis involves the entire community. The chief says the department is seeing opioid overdoses of people between 23 and 32 years old. Each fire and emergency unit is stocked with Narcan kits, which in many cases can reverse the effects of an overdose. (WITN-TV NEWS, 7/21/17).

Dredged Turtles

A dredging company has scooped up way more sea turtles than expected during a summerlong beach nourishment project on the Outer Banks. Great Lakes Dredge and Dock has accidentally snagged 65 sea turtles since work began in May instead of 17 anticipated by biologists, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration spokeswoman Allison Garrett said in an email. One of the 65 turtles died, well below the eight forecasted, she said. Plans are to widen about 8 miles of beaches along Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills. Operations have gone on night and day and are expected to last through the summer. Federal agencies are responsible for overseeing the work's environmental effects.

The sea turtles are chasing after an unusually large number of cannonball jellyfish, a preferred meal, Garrett said. Higher than normal sea surface temperatures could be attracting additional jellyfish, she said. Observers on board the dredges have tagged and released 52 loggerhead, two Kemp's ridley and 10 leatherback sea turtles. Listed as threatened in the United States, loggerheads are the most common sea turtle seen on the Outer Banks. Endangered leatherbacks are more rare and almost never nest there.

The sea turtle "takes" or captures are not expected to be harmful to the species and do not break environmental rules, the release said. "The information collected on sea turtles in association with this project will be invaluable for future offshore management efforts." (Jeff Hampton, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT, 7/22/17).

Kadesh Restoration

Renewed efforts to restore one of Edenton's oldest and most historic churches are getting a helping hand from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Partners for Sacred Places. Representatives from both organizations visited with members of Kadesh AME Zion Church in Edenton earlier this week, first at the home of Edenton Town Councilman Sambo Dixon and later at the New Kadesh AME Zion Church on Badham Road, which church members regard as their temporary home. Dixon is a member of the National Trust's Advisory Council.

Conversations at both places focused on resources that the agencies could bring to restore the beloved original home of the Kadesh congregation. The African-American church, constructed in 1897 by noted local builder Hannibal Badham, sustained heavy damage during Hurricane Isabel in 2003. Intermittent efforts have been made since then to restore the structure. Repair costs, however, are high. Current estimates are that the restoration will come with an approximate \$2 million price tag.

But Dixon said that having the National Trust and the Partners for Sacred Places on board with the effort would give it added momentum. John Hildreth, of the National Trust, said his organization was pleased to have the opportunity to be involved in such an important community project. "It's an inspirational place," Hildreth said of the original Kadesh church. "We're excited to be a part of this." (Rebecca Bunch, THE CHOWAN HERALD, 7/23/17).

Raleigh Cathedral

Catholics in eastern North Carolina are about to celebrate the completion of a big new cathedral that will be the center of the region's religious life. A dedication Mass scheduled for Wednesday is expected to draw 2,000 worshipers to the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral. The service will be live-streamed on the diocese's YouTube channel. Stone masons installed the cornerstone on Friday. Behind the stone, workers installed a time capsule including objects marking the recent life of the diocese of about a quarter-million members. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/23/17).

Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **Bold** are new listings.

LB: Legislative Building

LOB: Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

Wednesday, July 26

- 1:30 p.m. | House Select Committee on Redistricting, 643 LOB.

Thursday, Aug. 3

- Noon | House convenes in session.
- Noon | Senate convenes in session.

N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **BOLD** are new listings.

Monday, July 24

- 1 p.m. | The Economic Investment Committee meets to consider one or more economic development proposals, N.C. Commerce Executive Board Room, fourth floor, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh. Contact: Hannah Harrill, [919-814-4612](tel:919-814-4612).

Tuesday, July 25

- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Code Officials Qualification Board holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, 1st Floor Hearing Room, Room 131 (Albemarle Building), 325 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.
- 1 p.m. | The Board Development Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).

Wednesday, July 26

- 9 a.m. | The Wildlife Resource Commission committees meet, Commission Room, 5th Floor, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, July 27

- 9 a.m. | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, WRC Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Monday, July 31

- 12 p.m. | The N.C. State Board of Elections hold public hearing on proposed rule changes, State Board of Elections Office, 441 N. Harrington St., Raleigh.

Tuesday, Aug. 1

- 12 p.m. | The UNC Board of Governors' Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs, Board Room of the Center for School Leadership Development, 140 Friday Center Dr., Chapel Hill. Contact: Josh Ellis, [919-962-4629](tel:919-962-4629).

Thursday, Aug. 3

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](#).

Wednesday, Aug. 16

- 10:30 a.m. | The Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Wake Technical Community College-Public Safety Training Center, 321 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Aug. 17

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 14

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 21

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 28

- 10:30 a.m. | The Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Board to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries meets, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' Wilmington District Office, 127 North Cardinal Dr. Extension, Wilmington.

Thursday, Oct. 5

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](#).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, WRC Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, Oct. 19

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 9

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 16

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 7

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 21

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Jan. 11

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality

The N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources has a new name - the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. More Information: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/home>

Tuesday, July 18

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Water Resources hold public meeting on Atlantic Coast Pipeline Water Quality Certification, Fayetteville Technical Community College Cumberland Hall Auditorium at 2201 Hull Rd., Fayetteville.

Thursday, July 20

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Water Resources hold public meeting on Atlantic Coast Pipeline Water Quality Certification, Nash Community College Brown Auditorium at 522 N. Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount.

Thursday, Aug. 3

- 2 p.m. | The state Department on Air Quality holds public hearing concerning incorporation of 2015 Ozone Ambient Standard and Readoption, 2145 Suttle Ave., Charlotte.

N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina

More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

Monday, July 24

- Staff Conference

Monday, July 31

- Staff Conference

UNC Board of Governors

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill (**remote meeting locations in BOLD**)
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

Tuesday, Aug. 1

- 12 p.m. | The Board of Governors' Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs, Board Room of the Center for School Leadership Development, 140 Friday Center Dr., Chapel Hill.

Friday, Sept. 8

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Nov. 3

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Dec. 15

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, March 23, 2018

- TBA | UNC Wilmington, Wilmington.

Friday, May 25, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **BOLD** are new listings.

Sunday, July 30

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association host 81st Annual NC School of Banking, William & Ida Friday Center, UNC-Chapel Hill. The conference concludes on Aug. 4.

Monday, Aug. 14

- No time given | U.S. Small Business Administration deadline for businesses, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters in North Carolina to submit disaster loan applications for damages caused by the severe storms on May 30.

Friday, Sept. 8

- No Time Given | The 77th Annual National Folk Festival opens in Downtown Greensboro for its third year in the state. Contact: Kaitlin Smith, [336-373-7523, ext 246](tel:336-373-7523).

Sunday, Sept. 24

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Young Bankers Conference, Crowne Plaza Asheville Resort, Asheville.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- 10 a.m. | The Carolinas Air Pollution Control Association hold Technical Workshop and Forum, Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort, 10000 Beach Club Dr., Myrtle Beach.

Monday, Nov. 6

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Women in Banking Conference, Renaissance Charlotte Southpark, 5501 Carnegie Blvd., Charlotte.

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